

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

CU-02 OPR-02 IGA-02 /068 W

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R 141900Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 778

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY PORT

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ECRP, JM, CU

SUBJECT: CERP 0002: GROUND BREAKING FOR CUBAN SCHOOL

REFERENCE: KINGSTON 629

1. THE CUBAN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION TEAM WHICH ARRIVED IN FEBRUARY (REFTEL) HAS COMPLETED THE BUILDING OF THEIR LIVING QUARTERS AND NOW ARE TO COMMENCE WORK ON THE TWICKENHAM PARK SCHOOL ITSELF. P.M. MANLEY DECLARED AT THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY APRIL 13 THAT THE INSTITUTION WOULD BE A NEW KIND OF SCHOOL WHICH WOULD PRODUCE THE NEW JAMAICAN - ONE WHO WAS PATRIOTIC, SELF-RELIANT, AND WHO PRACTICED SOCIALIST BROTHERHOOD.

2. ACCORDING TO MANLEY, JAMAICAN-CUBAN FRIENDSHIP WAS ROOTED IN THEIR COMMON STRUGGLE AGAINST THE IMPERIALIST SYSTEM. JAMAICA ADMIRERD AND APPLAUDED CUBA'S POSITION IN ANGOLA, AS IT WAS ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM AND AGAINST IMPERIALISM. MANLEY COMMENTED THAT THE RECEPTION WHICH CASTRO WILL GET WHEN HE COMES LATER THIS YEAR WILL DEMONSTRATE JAMAICA'S APPRECIATION

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FOR THE SCHOOL.

3. THIRTY ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN JAMAICA THIS MONTH. THE SCHOOL IS EXPECTED TO BE COMPLETED IN 11 MONTHS.

4. COMMENT: THE CUBANS HAVE SHOWN SOME SENSITIVITY TO CRITICISM OF THE SCHOOL PROJECT. MANLEY'S PERFORMANCE AT THE GROUND BREAKING CEJEMONY APPEARED CALCULATED TO REASSURE THEM THAT THE CRITICISM EMANATES ONLY FROM AN INSIGNIFICANT MINORITY (HIS VIEW) AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS COMMITTED TO INCREASED COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

5. ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE CASTRO VISIT TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR MAY HAS BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY. MANLEY'S REFERENCE TO A VISIT LATER THIS YEAR PROBABLY WAS MEANT TO CONVEY THAT HE WOULD WELCOME A CASTRO VISIT AT SOME LATER UNSPECIFIED DATE. THE EMBASSY DOES NOT FEEL IT WILL TAKE PLACE UNTIL AFTER THE GENERAL ELECTION, WHICH COULD BE AS LATE AS JANUARY-APRIL, 1977.
DORRANCE

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